

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 AGR-05 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5382

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, MY

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PL 480 TITLE I SALE OF EDIBLE VEGETABLE OIL-
PAKISTAN

REF: STATE 273327

IN RESPONSE REFTEL EMBASSY INFORMED GOM OF PL 480 SALE OF
EDIBLE OIL TO PAKISTAN AND HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING GOM RESPONSE:
QUOTE: THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT NOTES THAT THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES PLANS TO PROVIDE TO PAKISTAN 70,000
METRIC TONS OF EDIBLE VEGETABLE OIL UNDER U.S. PUBLIC
LAW 480, TITLE I, DURING THE UNITED STATES FISCAL YEAR
1977 (OCTOBER 1, 1976 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1977) ON SOFT
REPAYMENT TERMS. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MAY RECALL THAT IN
1976 A QUANTITY OF 60,000 METRIC TONS OF COTTONSEED/SOYABEAN
OIL WAS ALSO PROVIDED TO PAKISTAN UNDER SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS.
WHILST IT IS NOT THE INTENTION OF THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT
TO DISAGREE WITH THE PRINCIPLE THAT AGRICULTURAL DISPOSAL
SHOULD BE CHANNELLED TOWARDS CONSUMPTION IN NUTRITION-
DEFICIENT COUNTRIES OR TO OPPOSE ENTIRELY THE PROPOSED SALE
OF EDIBLE VEGETABLE OIL TO PAKISTAN IN THE U.S. 1977 FISCAL
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YEAR, THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT NEVERTHELESS WOULD LIKE TO

EXPRESS ITS DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE FACT THAT WHILST THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO PROVIDE OR SUPPLEMENT THE CONSUMPTION IN NUTRITION-DEFICIENT COUNTRIES IT HAS AT THE SAME TIME TAKEN A DECISION TO CURTAIL ITS SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL LOANS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF MORE COMPETITIVE PALM OIL WHICH IN FUTURE YEARS COULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TOWARDS FULFILLING THE CONSUMPTION OF VEGETABLE OIL IN SUCH COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR AND THE WORLD IN GENERAL. ADDITIONALLY, THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT DESPITE ITS REQUESTS FOR ASSURANCES THAT SHIPMENTS OF PL480 VEGETABLE OILS DO NOT INTERFERE WITH NORMAL COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS IN PALM OIL, THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN MADE AWARE THAT SHIPMENTS OF PALM OIL TO PAKISTAN RECENTLY HAD TO BE DEFERRED BECAUSE OF PREFERENTIAL ALLOCATION OF PORT SPACE TO SOYABEAN OIL. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING AND THE FACT THAT THE US PL480 AND CCC SALES HAVE AND ARE BEING INCREASED TO SIZEABLE QUANTITIES, THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN THE DISPOSAL OF VEGETABLE OILS IN FUTURE AND TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIKE MALAYSIA TO OBTAIN A FAIR SHARE OF THE TRADE IN VEGETABLE OILS. END QUOTE. UNDERHILL

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